



## **CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

2865 Thornhills SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546-7140

May 2, 2011

The Honorable David Hildenbrand, State Senator  
State of Michigan  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

Re: Senate Bill 334: Committee Hearing May 3, 2011

Dear Senator Hildenbrand:

Cascade Charter Township is very excited that the bill you introduced to add townships to the list of local municipalities permitted to entertain the creation of a Business Improvement District, Principal Shopping District or a Business Improvement Zone. There are many urban townships in Michigan counties with a population under 750,000 where the creation of such a district would provide immense financial benefits to the business owners in the township.

Cascade Charter Township is one example of a municipality that would benefit from the creation of a Business Improvement District. There is a business park known as the Centennial Business Park in the township that could make itself into a premiere park in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area if this bill were made law. The township has tried to help improve the park with improvements through the auspices of our Downtown Development Authority (DDA); in fact, the DDA will install sidewalks, lighting and landscaping in a portion of the park this summer. However, the owners within the park want (or need) to do more than the DDA can provide. The township is willing to help them in any way we can. Supporting legislation to allow for Business Improvement Districts to be allowed in townships is clearly a way to help.

A Business Improvement District in Cascade Charter Township will provide for the businesses in the district to make improvements that will benefit them directly and the rest of the township indirectly. If the owners are able to improve their businesses and thereby fill any vacant spaces due to the area becoming a more desired place to locate, all the

Cascade has always been a municipality that uses the programs available to keep it a progressive, vibrant place to live, work and play. Passage of SB334 will add another tool that we can use to continue to strive for excellence in our work to insure that Cascade and the Grand Rapids region are the example of “doing it right” for the world.

**William T. Cousins III**  
**Township Manager**

C: Economic Development Committee of the State Senate  
Chaired by – The Honorable Senator Kowall; and  
Committee Members - The Honorable Senator Nofs  
The Honorable Senator Emmons  
The Honorable Senator Hanson  
The Honorable Senator Hunter  
The Honorable Senator Smith